Unesco Chronicle

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Monastery of Saint Catherine:
Professor Garitte's Report
The International Geophysical Year
'Books for All'

A monthly report from Unesco House

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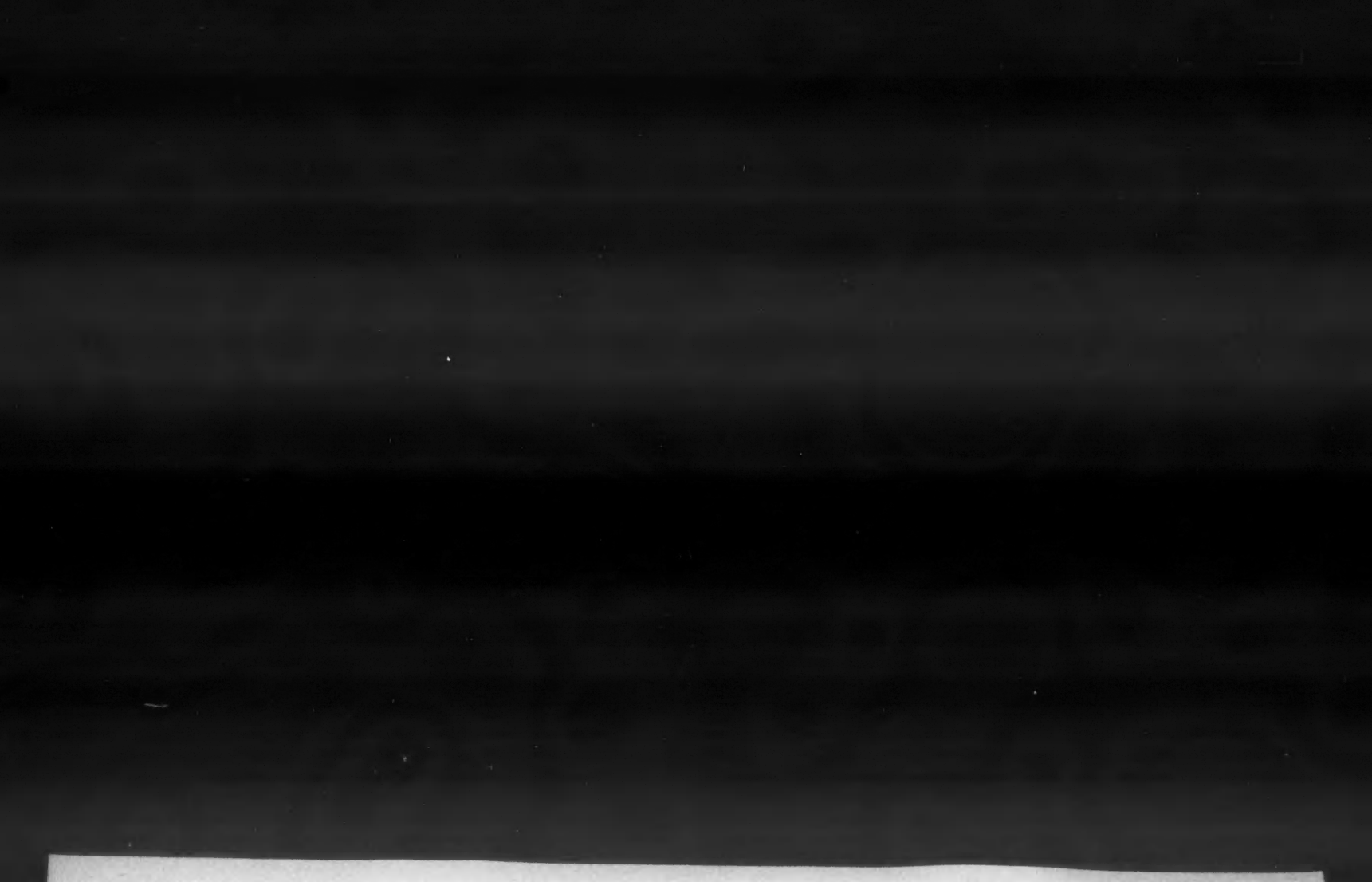

Unesco Chronicle

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Report by Mr. G. Garitte on his mission to the Monastery of Saint Catherine, Sinai

At the request of the Governments of Egypt and Israel Mr. Gérard Garitte, Professor in the University of Louvain, was sent by Unesco, in January last, on mission to the Monastery of Saint Catherine, Sinai. We publish below the report submitted by Mr. Garitte to the Director-General of Unesco on the conclusion of his mission.

I. THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION (17 November 1956-15 January 1957)

The first Israeli troops reached the Monastery of St. Catherine on 17 November 1956. When I myself arrived at 6 p.m. on 10 January 1957 I found Major Akiva Saar and Captain Moshe Grassiani, of the Israeli Armoured and Parachute Forces respectively, installed there with about ten soldiers (convalescent wounded, radio operators and two military policemen) who were all living in the hostelry of the Monastery (within the enclosure). The duties of Major Saar and his men, according to his own statement and statements made by the monks, consisted mainly in receiving the many visitors (between 2,500 and 3,000) to Mount Sinai during the two months of Israeli occupation and ensuring the orderly conduct of the tours of the Monastery which were invariably carried out under the Major's personal escort. The Israeli detachment handed over the monastery to UNEF troops at 10 a.m. on 15 January 1957.

At the entrance to the Monastery, outside the enclosure, were two military police notices in Hebrew which read (as translated by Major Saar and Captain Grassiani):

'To all troops and civilians. Entrance to the Monastery and its grounds is prohibited without a pass from the District Commandant. Any person not in possession of a pass will be arrested and punished.'

At my request the Reverend Archimandrite Christophoros, skevophylax and librarian of the Monastery, handed me a written statement in Greek, dated 20 January 1957, of which the translation is as follows:

'To Mr. G. Garitte, Professor in the University of Louvain and special Unesco delegate.

Having received your written request for information about the circumstances of the Israeli occupation and the general conduct of the troops

concerned from the date of their arrival here until the day of their departure, I am glad to comply and to report as follows:

(1) The Israelis reached the Monastery on 17 November 1956 and left it on 15 January 1957.

(2) Between the two dates mentioned above approximately 2,500 persons visited the Monastery.

(3) During the stay of the Israeli forces the Monastery was also visited by eight professors from the University of Jerusalem who, after seeking our permission, worked in the library for eight days; on the conclusion of their work, which was carried out in conformity with the rules of the library and under our supervision, they returned home.

(4) Within the first week after their arrival here, the Israelis detailed a military police guard to maintain order during tours of the library, the church and the monastery.

(5) Visitors were invariably accompanied and closely supervised by Major Saar who resided in the Monastery throughout.

(6) Fifteen days after the beginning of the occupation the Monastery was visited by Moshe Dayan, Commander-in-Chief of the Israeli Forces.

(7) As verified by yourself and by the Red Cross representative, Mr. Guilland, who visited the Monastery on 25 December, the Israelis left the treasures and manuscripts of the Monastery intact.

(8) The Israelis supplied us with foodstuffs and also allowed the United Nations to deliver to us foodstuffs which His Beatitude the Archbishop Porphyrios asked leave to send us through that organization.

Having informed you of the foregoing, I beg to remain, etc.

Christophoros, Archimandrite Skevophylax,
Sinai, 20 January 1957.'

II. STATE OF THE BUILDINGS

I carried out a detailed inspection of all the buildings of the Monastery and its dependencies and found them undamaged.

The only damage which took place during the Israeli occupation was one broken window in the 'skevophylakion' (treasury) of the church; I secured independent accounts of this incident from Major Saar, who reported it to me spontaneously, from Father Nikiphoros and from Father Sophronios. From these statements, the facts would appear to have been as follows:

At 7 p.m. on 25 December 1956, the day of the visit of Mr. Guilland, the International Red Cross representative, a Bedouin employed at the Monastery, Mahomet Farag Massaout, reported to Father Neophytos, the Monastery steward, that an Israeli soldier had broken a window in the skevophylakion of the church.

The steward and Father Nikiphoros gave the general alarm and notified

Major Saar. No one was found inside the church but it was discovered that outside there was a ladder against the wall and that the lower part of a window in that wall was broken (when I arrived this window had been blocked with a stone). The ladder had been taken from a small garden inside the Monastery where the soil was damp. Major Saar noticed footprints in the earth, had the shoes of the Bedouin who had given the alarm removed and demonstrated to the satisfaction of all present that the footprints were the Bedouin's (see photographs attached). The Bedouin Mahomet, who customarily left the Monastery at 4 p.m. had that day stayed on until 7 p.m., for which he could advance no plausible explanation. Major Saar had him arrested but at the request of the monks, who were anxious to avoid any difficulties with the Bedouins, released him the following day and expelled him from the Monastery; the Bedouin has not been seen there since. There was no access to the Church treasury by way of the broken window, since this was blocked inside by a large cupboard. Father Nikiphoros assured me that none of the Israeli soldiers was aware that there was a ladder in the inside garden and that none of them knew that the window in question opened into the skevophylakion which was never entered by any visitor, either civilian or military, during the Israeli occupation. Father Nikiphoros gave me a written report of this incident of which a translation will be found attached.

III. STATE OF THE LIBRARY

My very first visit showed that the books and manuscripts of the library were in perfect order.

On the wooden lattice separating the library proper—to which visitors are not admitted—from the antechamber reading room was posted a notice in Hebrew reading 'No admittance'.

In the standing show-case on the left of the entrance to the antechamber was exhibited a letter in Hebrew and French from General Dayan. I took a copy of the French text (of which the following is an English translation):

'Israeli Defence Forces — 24 December 1956
General Staff

To the Abbot of the Monastery of Mount Sinai:

Right Reverend Father,

I should like to express my gratitude to yourself and to the monks of your Monastery for the kindly and willing assistance afforded to scholars, civilians and soldiers of the Israeli Defence Army who have had occasion to visit the sacred precincts.

Present circumstances preclude our expressing our gratitude for your

generous hospitality as we should like but in so far as I can ever be of service to you personally or to the monks of the Monastery, I shall welcome the opportunity.

I have the honour to be, Father Abbot,
Your obedient Servant,
Moshe Dayan,
Chief of Staff.'

I took the trouble to make an individual check of the 3,300 odd manuscripts which are kept on the shelves of the galleries running the length of the library on either side; I ascertained that the only missing items were those which were already missing in 1950.

The printed books kept on the floor level shelves were also in good order with none missing, as were the records now kept in metal cupboards in the antechamber to the library.

IV. ARTS MUSEUM

Since 1950 the large hall situated on the eastern side of the library has been fitted out as an arts museum. On the walls are hung the most ancient of the Monastery's ikons with a few of the most precious of the church treasures (chalices, vestments, sacred vessels, etc.) shown in locked cases. Everything here was in good order and good condition.

V. THE CHURCH

I carried out a number of inspections of the church with its numerous ikons and art treasures, the sanctuary containing, among other objects, shrines and the reliquary of St. Catherine, the chapel of the Burning Bush and the halls and chapels abutting on the church. Everything was intact.

VI. THE FORMER LIBRARY

I also thought it well to inspect the structure and rooms of the former library to which visitors are only admitted in quite exceptional circumstances. The Reverend Archimandrite Christophoros, librarian, assured me that no one had ever even asked him what the building contained.

I found all the collections of ikons and art treasures there in the same state as when I saw them in 1950.

VII. OTHER PREMISES

I likewise found the mosque, the outbuildings and the premises of the hostelry intact, with all their equipment and furniture.

VIII. DEPENDENCIES OF THE MONASTERY

I visited the property known as the House and Garden of the Twelve Martyrs a few kilometres from the Monastery, the Monastery's house and garden in the Feiran oasis (75 kilometres from the Monastery) and the 'métochion' of the Monastery at El-Tor on the Gulf of Suez. I found all in good order and perfect condition. The entrance gate of the Monastery's property at Feiran bore a notice in Hebrew reading:

'Property of the Monastery of St. Catherine. No Entry'.

On the site of the ancient town of Pharan, in the Feiran oasis, the scientific expedition from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem made some archaeological sample diggings, as Major Saar informed me. Some shallow excavations a few metres in diameter may be seen here and there. On my return on 21 January Captain de Ghellinck took a few photographs of these diggings.

IX. CONCLUSION

My finding is therefore that at the end of the Israeli occupation (17 November-15 January) the Monastery of St. Catherine on Mount Sinai, with all the cultural property it contains, was intact.

X. SUGGESTIONS

1. It is eminently desirable that the Monastery of St. Catherine on Mount Sinai be placed as soon as possible 'under special protection' in the sense of Article 8 of the International Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (The Hague, 1954).
   Isolated as it is in mountainous desert country it satisfies the conditions in paragraph 1 of the said Article 8 since it is at a great distance from any industrial centre, any important military objective or any main line of communication and cannot be used for any military purpose.
2. For the preservation of the manuscripts in the library, particularly those whose binding is in bad condition, it is desirable—in order to avoid the loss or prevent the theft of detached pages or parts of manuscripts—that the Monastery authorities be put in a position to undertake the repair of those bindings which have become defective. They should have funds made available to them for this purpose and the services of skilled craftsmen.
3. His Beatitude Porphyrios III and the Rev. Archimandrite librarian informed me of their wish to extend and improve the Arts Museum; for this purpose they should be given funds, more especially for the acquisition of additional metal show-cases in which numbers of art

objects now scattered throughout the church and other parts of the Monastery could be exhibited without risk.

4. His Beatitude Porphyrios III told me that he would like to have a copy of the microfilms taken in the Monastery in 1950 for the Library of Congress and a microfilm reader. The microfilm reader and microfilms which might be kept either in Cairo or at the Monastery, would serve to avoid wear and tear of the originals in cases where reference to these was not essential.

XI. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

His Beatitude Porphyrios III, Archbishop of Sinai, asked me to convey to the Director-General of Unesco his warm gratitude for the interest shown by Unesco in the Monastery and its cultural treasures.

I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my own sincere thanks to all the authorities and individuals who made arrangements for my mission.

I also wish to record the great satisfaction I had in finding that immediately after an armed conflict and in the midst of a grave political emergency Unesco has succeeded in securing unanimous agreement for the safeguard of property which is of cultural value only. All those who have the interests of civilization and culture at heart will be anxious that should further armed conflicts unhappily arise, Unesco may be able to continue to give the lie to the ancient adage, *Inter arma silent Musae.*

Héverlé-Louvain, Belgium
10 February 1957

APPENDIX

On 25 December 1956, Mr. Louis Guilland, representative of the International Red Cross, arrived at the Monastery in order to ascertain whether it had suffered in any way at the hands of the Israelis. That same evening, 25 December 1956, Mahomet Farag Massaout, a Bedouin employee, reported to the Monastery steward at 7 p.m. that an Israeli soldier had placed a ladder in order to get into the 'skevophylakion' (treasury) of the monastery; the steward at once raised the general alarm. At the time I happened to be in the hostelry, as I had work there. A member of the staff came to tell me what had happened and I at once notified the officer appointed by the Israeli General Staff to be responsible for the safety of the Monastery, Major Akiva Saar, who had ten soldiers under his orders. We found no one inside the church, but outside there was a ladder against the window of the 'skevophylakion' and half the window had been broken. Major Saar, however, pointed out that the perpetrator could not have effected an entry

(through the window into the church) because the window was blocked on the inside by a large cupboard. The officer asked where the ladder came from; we told him that it was kept in a garden nearby. The earth in the garden was damp and he noticed some footprints, upon which he had the shoes of the Bedouin removed and put them beside these footprints; we all saw that they tallied. The officer then said to the Bedouin, 'For the last month and a half you have been leaving the monastery daily at 4 p.m. How is it that today you have stayed on until 7 p.m.? It is you who reported the attempted robbery (to the steward): you, therefore, are the culprit.' He had the man arrested, but the next day, out of consideration for the Monastery and for more general reasons, he released him. I give this account of the facts as they occurred, in the interests of truth.

Nikiphoros
Sinai, 14 January 1957

The International Geophysical Year

GERALD WENDT

Present knowledge of the earth is inadequate and not sufficiently exact for many modern purposes such as forecasting the weather, broadcasting in radio and television, high-altitude aeroplane flights, the use of long-range rockets, predicting changes in the temperature, the level of the oceans and the location of fish populations, controlling rainfall and arid conditions, or predicting earthquakes and other earth movements.

For these and other more scientific purposes, knowing the inhabited surface of the earth is not enough. It is important to explore the ocean deeps, the earth's interior, and the frozen continent of Antarctica which is almost as large as South America and nearly twice as large as Europe. Even more important is the exploration of the upper atmosphere.

All these explorations require exact measurements which can be made with the instruments and methods of modern physics. This is why a world campaign—known as the International Geophysical Year—is now being prepared with some fifty nations scheduled to participate in it. Strictly speaking, it is not really a 'year' but eighteen months, because the campaign will run from 1 July 1957 to 31 December 1958.

EXPLORERS IN THE ARCTIC AND ANTARCTIC

The programme is so immense that even the preparations for it have already included large exploring expeditions to the Antarctic by the British and the Americans. This mass of rock and ice will be the scene in a few months time of concentrated studies by eleven nations: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Britain, Chile, France, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. At least twenty and possibly fifty observation stations will be set up on the vast continent and on the islands near it. A number of expeditions to prepare base camps have already been made. An American party of 7 ships, 14 aircraft and 1,800 men spent 104 days from December 1955 through March 1956, on the edge of the ice, and established two permanent camps. A thousand tons of supplies were unloaded there to build two more camps, one inland among the mountains of Marie Byrd Land, the other at the South Pole itself. These four major American stations are about 500 miles distant from each other. Four other bases will

also be built during the next season. For inland transport giant tractors and cargo planes will be used. At the South Pole station the planes will have to land on the ice plateau at an elevation of 10,000 feet, but 500 tons of cargo will be dropped by parachute. When all is prepared, the scientists will arrive for their studies.

Both in the Antarctic and at the North Pole scientific measurements will include the depth and temperature of the sea, analyses of snow, ice and air, measurements of the temperature, pressure and winds of the atmosphere, and a study of magnetic and electrical conditions and of the intense cosmic rays. These areas are of vital importance both because the earth's magnetism is concentrated about the poles and because the enormous ice mass has a decisive yet almost unknown effect on the earth's climate and weather.

The Arctic and the Antarctic expeditions are, however, only a small part of the entire programme for the International Geophysical Year. The project is so large, with the participation of 54 nations and at an estimated cost of more than $200,000,000, that it must be organized by a central authority. This is a special committee of the International Council of Scientific Unions, which has its secretariat in London and operates partly under a subvention from Unesco in Paris. The Council is composed of representatives of a score of international unions, in particular those concerned with physics, astronomy, geography, geophysics, meteorology and radio. The Secretariat of the International Geophysical Year thus draws upon the resources of the entire scientific world. There are also national committees in the individual countries that can draw on national funds for support, and Unesco is offering aid as well.

The studies of the upper atmosphere, of electrical conditions and of the sun's radiations are probably the most important part of the project. They involve the earth as a whole, as a small planet rotating round the sun. The essential requirement in this field is that observations be made at the same time at widely separated points on the earth. For this reason a detailed calendar of the 18-month 'year' has been prepared which sets certain regular periods and a number of special ones during which observing stations all over the world will take their measurements. There will be at least three regular 'world days' each month, two at the new moon and one near the quarter-moon. An additional 'world day' will later be set in some months to include periods of greatest meteoric activity. In addition, there will be special 'world intervals', averaging four days each month when magnetic and auroral displays can be expected. The many national observation posts will be alerted and co-ordinated by three powerful radio transmitters in the U.S.A., France and Japan. Finally there will be six 'world meteorological intervals', each lasting ten consecutive days, for such specialized observations as the annular eclipse of the sun on 19 April 1958,

and two total eclipses of the sun on 23 October 1957, and 12 October 1958, both of them visible only in the southern hemisphere.

OF ROCKETS AND 'ROCKOONS'

The most spectacular experiment of the 'year' will be the launching by the U.S.A. and by the U.S.S.R. of small rockets which will establish themselves in orbits from 200 miles to 1,000 miles above the earth's surface and will swing round the earth, like moons, once in every 90 minutes. They will be only temporary satellites, lasting for several weeks before they slow down through friction with the air and descend at great speed to burn away like ordinary meteorites. Meanwhile they will serve as automatic observation posts, high above the atmosphere, and will constantly measure the sun's radiation, cosmic rays and magnetic conditions, reporting their measurements by radio signals.

But this will not be the only use of rockets. The U.S.A. plans to send aloft about 100 'Rockoons', which are small rockets launched from balloons at an altitude of about 90,000 feet that can then carry some 7 pounds of scientific instruments to a height of 60 miles. In addition, the U.S.A. will launch about 36 'Aerobee' rockets and France about 12 'Véroniques', both of which can carry from 20 to 35 pounds of equipment to altitudes of several hundred miles. Great Britain and the Soviet Union will also probably join in this programme.

The information obtained from all these measurements will be the basis of study for many years to come. The data on winds, large air currents, temperatures and humidity of the air at various levels and in the tropic and southern regions are needed for more accurate forecasting of weather. They will also greatly assist air navigation and the planning of airline routes and schedules. During the past century the climate has been getting steadily warmer, and future studies of the melting of the polar ice-caps and of glaciers will probably explain the rise in level of the sea by about four inches over the last hundred years. Similarly, the currents, temperatures and saltiness of the oceans and the long waves that affect shipping and cause coastal flooding need study. For example, the rise in the temperature of Arctic waters has already had important effects in the fisheries industry.

Data on magnetic storms will also be invaluable. At present, these storms are unpredictable; they are often violent and interfere with the use of magnetic instruments, such as the compass in ordinary navigation, to say nothing of radio broadcasting and radio telephoning across the sea. Finally, other observations will permit more accurate measurements of the distances between the continents and even the exact location of various islands which may now be inaccurately mapped by as much as a mile.

The International Geophysical Year is therefore one of the largest and

most important scientific projects ever conceived. It will bring into use a wide variety of new instruments undreamed of before the electronic and the atomic age. It will involve a degree of co-operation between nations that was not possible before the organization of the international scientific unions and their co-ordination by the International Council of Scientific Unions, which is supported by Unesco.

N E W S I T E M S

Member States

PERMANENT DELEGATIONS TO UNESCO

Argentina. **Mr. Andrès V. M. Ezcurra Rosas has been named first secretary of the Argentine delegation to Unesco.**

Brazil. **Mr. Gilberto Chateaubriant Bandeira de Mello, secretary of the Embassy, has been named permanent deputy delegate of Brazil to Unesco.**

Cuba. **Dr. Orestes Ferrara Marino has been named permanent delegate of Cuba to Unesco, replacing H.E. Dr. Juan J. Remos who has been appointed Ambassador to Spain.**

Czechoslovakia. **Dr. Vladmiri Stepanek, Counsellor of the Embassy, has been named permanent delegate of Czechoslovakia to Unesco.**

Israel. **Mr. S. Levin has replaced Mr. Nissim Yaish as deputy delegate of Israel to Unesco.**

Netherlands. **Mr. S. de Gorter, first secretary of the Netherlands Embassy in Paris, has been assigned to carry out liaison with Unesco, replacing Mr. R. de Roos.**

Rumania. **Mr. Gheorge Pasco, Counsellor of the Legation of Rumania in Paris, has been assigned to carry out liaison with Unesco.**

Spain. **Mr. Federico Diez y de Yaasi and Mr. Juan Estelrich Y. Artigues have been named permanent delegates of Spain to Unesco, replacing the Count of Casa Rojas, Spanish Ambassador to France.**

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. **Mr. V. S. Kemonov, permanent Soviet delegate to Unesco, has been promoted to the rank of ambassador.**

United States of America. **Mr. Henry J. Kellermann has been named permanent representative of the United States at Unesco, replacing Mr. Edward G. Trueblood who has been appointed to a new position.**

Holy See. **Under the patronage of H.E. Mgr. Felix Petrozzi, permanent observer of the Holy See at Unesco, a collection of writings of Pope**

Pius XII has recently appeared entitled *Pius XII—Education, Science and Culture*. This book was motivated by 'a desire to group in an orderly presentation the essential points of the thinking of His Holiness Pius XII on subjects of concern to Unesco's work and activities'.

RATIFICATION OF INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS

The Convention and the Protocol for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict were ratified by the U.S.S.R. on 4 January 1957 and by the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic on 6 February. Ecuador ratified the Convention on 2 October 1956.

Italy's instrument of ratification of the Universal Copyright Convention and its Annexed Protocols 2 and 3 were deposited with the Director-General of Unesco on 24 October 1956. On 12 February 1957, Mexico ratified the Convention and Annexed Protocol 2.

National Commissions

Australia. The Australian-Unesco Committee for the Visual Arts will now act as the Australian National Committee for the Plastic Arts.

Belgium. The Belgian National Commission for Unesco devoted its recent meetings to a study of Unesco's programme for the next two years. In particular, the Commission discussed steps to be taken to carry out the major project on the mutual appreciation of Eastern and Western cultural values. It examined the possibilities of developing ocenanographic research in Belgium and reviewed the results of discussions with the Netherlands National Commission concerning certain Unesco publications. Commission members also heard a series of reports on Belgian participation in International Museum Week, on the organization of a national seminar to train leaders of tele-clubs and on the possibilities of creating a national office to co-operate with the International Centre for Educational, Scientific and Cultural Films for Television.

To mark the tenth anniversary of Unesco and the fifth anniversary of the Belgian national bibliographical commission, Belgian authorities organized two exhibits at the end of 1956: one devoted to Unesco activities for libraries and the improvement of bibliography, and the second to recent examples of the achievements of Belgian bibliographical services.

Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic. A National Commission for Unesco has been created at Minsk.

Chile. A regional Unesco committee was recently organized at Concepcion.

Irak. H.E. Khalil Kenna has been named president of the National Commission for Unesco, replacing H.E. Munir El Kadi.

Italy. The most recent issue of the information bulletin of the National Commission for Unesco contains an account of the official meeting held on 9 October by the Commission in the presence of the President of Italy and several members of the Italian Cabinet, as well as many members of Parliament and representatives of the diplomatic corps. Also present at this meeting were Dr. Vittorino Veronese, chairman of the Executive Board of Unesco, and Mr. Jean Thomas, Assistant Director-General of Unesco. The bulletin contains the texts of the main speeches delivered during the meeting

Japan. Mr. Tamon Madea has been re-elected president of the National Commission for Unesco whose recent activities include the organization of a meeting of experts in order to encourage the exchange of persons in Southern Asia and in the Far East. Fifteen specialists from nine countries participated in this meeting.

Following a series of agreements between Japanese trade unions and Indian, Philippine, Thai and Chinese labour organizations, some forty foreign workers were awarded travel grants last summer to visit Japan.

Also under the auspices of the National Commission for Unesco, a seminar on education for international understanding which brought together more than 100 Japanese teachers was held recently in Tokyo. A similar meeting was held in Aomori for directors of youth movements and adult education services in the region of Tohoku and Hokkaido.

Morocco. A National Commission for Unesco was recently established at Rabat. Its president is H.E. Mohammed el Fassi, Minister of Education and Fine Arts, its vice-presidents are Mr. Mahdi ben Barka and Mr. Abdelkabir ben Hafid el Fassi and Mr. Ahmed Lakhdar is its secretary-general.

Sweden. Dr. Uno Willers, administrator of the Royal Library, has been named vice-president of the National Commission for Unesco, replacing Mr. Ragner Lund who, in turn, has succeeded Professor Ingemar Düring as the Commission's president.

Thailand. Mr. Nob Palakawongsa Na Ayudhya has been named secretary-general of the Unesco National Commission, replacing Mr. Bhunttin Attagara who assumed other duties.

United States of America. The Executive Committee of the National Commission for Unesco met in New York on 28 and 29 January with Dr. John R. Richards, head of the Commission, serving as chairman. The committee members heard an appraisal of the proceedings of the Unesco General Conference in New Delhi. After discussing activities for 1957, the committee outlined plans for the Commission's Sixth National Conference tentatively scheduled for San Francisco next November.

In commemoration of Unesco's tenth anniversary, the Commission organized a special radio programme which was presented by Miss Myrna Loy. Forty television stations also presented a discussion on the theme of 'Unesco and Peace', while pamphlets and posters were made available to local committees celebrating this anniversary.

More than 200 American museums took part in the International Museum

Week organized last year by Unesco in co-operation with the American Association of Museums. Themes of the museum campaign were presented to television viewers in a series of programmes over the Columbia Broadcasting Corporation's network.

Secretariat

The New Bureau of Relations with Member States

A new administrative unit has just been established in the Secretariat to improve the co-ordination of Unesco's external activities. As a result of this reorganization, the Technical Assistance Department has ceased to exist and its work has been transferred to the new Bureau of Relations with Member States. This Bureau is responsible for co-ordinating the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, the Programme of Participation in the Activities of Member States (formerly known as the 'Aid to Member States Programme'), and Unesco's relations with Member States, National Commissions, Associate Member States and non-member States.

The former director of the Technical Assistance Department, Dr. Byron S. Hollinshead of the United States, has been named Chief of the new Bureau until his retirement from Unesco's service on 30 June 1957. Mr. Harry Dawes of the United Kingdom has been appointed Deputy Chief; Mr. Jean Chevalier of France, Head of Area Division I (Europe, English-speaking countries and Africa, with the exception of North Africa); Mr. A. H. Mackenzie of Canada, Acting Head of Area Division II (Latin America, the Middle East, North Africa, South-East Asia and the Far East) and Mr. F. S. Smith of Burma, Head of the Administrative Division.

Unesco's Relations with the Council of Europe

After having noted its third report from Unesco, the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe on 11 January 'expressed to the Organization its very sincere congratulations for the remarkable work which it has done in Europe during the past year'. The Assembly then recommended that the Council of Ministers should:

1. Take necessary steps so that all member States of the Council of Europe should belong to the International Bureau of Education as full-fledged members.
2. Invite governments of member countries to ratify without delay the agreement concerning the creation of an international computation centre at Rome.
3. Associate the Council of Europe as closely as possible with the carrying out of Unesco's major project on the mutual appreciation of Eastern and Western cultural values.
4. Request the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe to examine with Unesco the possibilities of fruitful participation by the Council in the Unesco Social Sciences Institute at Cologne.

The Assembly also stressed the importance which it attached to Unesco's activities concerning fundamental education, the International Bureau of Universities and the study of the question of 'neighbouring rights'.

Scientific Research in Unesco's Programme

The International Advisory Committee on Research in the Natural Science Programme of Unesco will hold its fourth session from 10 to 12 April in Stockholm.

Among the items on its agenda will be: the major project on scientific research for arid lands; in the marine sciences, ocean and sea disposal of radio-active wastes, and the possible fitting-out of a research ship; meetings of experts in Brazil and the Ivory Coast to carry out international research on the humid tropical zones; in the field of cell biology, the problems of setting up an international commission for cell biology and also a programme on laboratory animal resources; and finally, in atomic energy, the preparation of conferences on 'the engineer in the atomic age' and on the use of radio-isotopes in research and industry.

The committee will also concern itself with Unesco subventions to international scientific organizations and to laboratories of international status. It will study certain problems of scientific documentation and it will also be called upon to give its opinion on collaboration between national research councils and Unesco.

An International Scientific Conference on Radio-Isotopes

An international scientific conference on the use of radio-isotopes in research will be convened by Unesco next September in Paris. Preliminary discussions on the scope and organization of the conference took place at a meeting in Unesco House on 14 and 15 January of scientists from eight countries. The scientists were Mr. Francisco Magalhaes Gomes of Brazil, Mr. Charles D. Coryell of the United States, Mr. Charles Fisher of France, Mr. Tatsuji Hamada of Japan, Mr. A. S. Rao of India, Mr. Henry Seligman of the United Kingdom, Mr. Cestmir Jech of Czechoslovakia, and Mr. Victor Vavilov and Mr. Ivan Rojansky of the U.S.S.R.

Observers present from the World Health Organization, the World Meteorological Organization, the Food and Agricultural Organization, and the European Organization for Nuclear Research promised the support of their organizations for the conference.

More than 1,000 scientists are expected to attend the conference. The purpose of this meeting will not be to adopt resolutions or recommendations, but to provide a broad exchange of information on newest developments in the use of radio-isotopes as instruments of research, as tracers or as sources of radiation. The last conference of this nature was held in 1954 at Oxford under the auspices of the Harwell Atomic Energy Research Establishment.

The conference will work in two main sections, one dealing with radio-isotopes in the physical sciences and the second with the biological sciences. The first section will cover such fields as geology and geophysics (including meteorology and oceanography) and metallurgical and industrial research. The second will take up the use of radio-isotopes in biochemistry (including

plant biochemistry and photosynthesis), human and animal physiological research, nutrition research, basic medical research and certain branches of agricultural research, including soil fertility plant and animal pathology and the use of insecticides.

Arid Zone Climatology

The eleventh session of the Advisory Committee on Arid Zone Research was held last October in Australia at University College, Canberra, and at Melbourne, with Dr. H. O'R. Sternberg of Brazil as chairman. The committee devoted nearly its entire session to a close study of Unesco's major project on arid land research which was approved a few weeks later by the General Conference at New Delhi.

The presence of committee members in Australia enabled Australian authorities and Unesco to organize in Canberra from October 20 an international symposium on arid zone climatology, with special reference to micro-climatology. This was then followed by a study tour by its participants.

With Dr. C. W. Thornthwaite of the United States as chairman, more than 100 scientists were able to exchange views in this symposium. Their discussions underscored the need for research on the following problems: the relation of the pattern of plant communities to the influence of the water and temperature regime; the availability and use of soil water, dew and water vapour; the temperature and light extremes which affect seed germination; plant growth and survival in arid regions and the influence of nutrition and soil types; the possible use of wide-scale network data in relation to the application of climatic indices; population and physiological studies of arid zone insects, birds and animals; the function and properties of surface insulation and colouring; the design of test rooms and mobile testing facilities; the distribution and biological effects of ultra-violet radiation.

International Advisory Committee on Marine Sciences holds its First Session

The International Advisory Committee on Marine Sciences also met last October, holding its first session at Lima with Dr. G. E. R. Deacon of the United Kingdom as its chairman. The committee's eight other members who participated in this meeting were: Dr. D. V. Bal of India, Dr. Anton F. Bruun of Denmark, Dr. Marc Eyriès of France, Dr. Koji Hidaka of Japan, Dr. L. Howell Rivero of Cuba, Dr. Roger Revelle of the United States, Dr. D. J. Rochford of Australia and Dr. Lev Zenkevitch of the U.S.S.R.

The committee devoted most of its session to problems of organizing its programme of studies, establishing relations with other specialized institutions and research centres, preparing international symposia and also Unesco participation in certain extremely important projects. Other problems discussed included fellowships and travel grants for young scientists, the international exchange of information and documentation, the freedom of investigation in offshore waters and the possibility of equipping an international research ship.

The committee's meeting was preceded by a seminar on problems of physical and biological oceanography, particularly in the south-eastern Pacific. Scientists from Chile, Mexico, Peru, and the United States participated.

Aid to Research on the Humid Tropics

The International Advisory Committee for Humid Tropics Research was established at the end of 1956 and it is scheduled to hold its first session in July in Brazil. Its members are Professor V. van Straelen of Belgium, Dr. F. C. Camargo of Brazil, Dr. C. H. Holmes of Ceylon, Professor G. Mangenot of France, Dr. M. L. Roonwal of India, Dr. M. O. Ghani of Pakistan, Mr. F. C. Rodriguez of the Philippines, Mr. D. Rhind of the United Kingdom and Dr. F. R. Fosberg of the United States.

Following the recommendations of a preparatory meeting in Kandy, Ceylon,[1] financial assistance has been provided by Unesco for the following research projects:

1. Completion and publication of a map of the main vegetation regions of Africa south of the Sahara by the Association pour l'Etude Taxonomique de la Flore d'Afrique Tropicale.
2. Preparation of supplements to the 'Bibliography of Micronesian Botany' and the 'Bibliography on the Vegetation of the Tropical Pacific Islands' by Dr. F. R. Fosberg of the United States.
3. Publication of a world bibliography of the plant family Lauraceas by Dr. A. J. G. H. Kostermans of Indonesia.
4. Preparation of supplement to the 'Botanical Bibliography of the Pacific Islands' by Dr. E. H. Walker of the United States.
5. Publication of an index of papers on systematic phanerogamy in Africa south of the Sahara by the Association pour l'Etude Taxonomique de la Flore d'Afrique Tropicale.

The fifth of these projects has now been completed and good progress is being made on the rest. Unesco has received new requests for financial assistance for 11 projects, mainly submitted by research workers in Africa south of the Sahara. It intends to present these requests to the advisory committee for consideration when it meets in Brazil.

It is also planned to aid the Pacific Science Association in organizing a symposium on climate, vegetation and rational land utilization in the humid tropics. This will be held during the Ninth Pacific Science Congress meeting next November in Bangkok.

The Tasks and Equipment of the International Computation Centre

A meeting of experts was held in Rome last October to discuss the tasks, organization and equipment of the International Computation Centre sent up by the intergovernmental convention of December 1951 which has now been *ratified* by five States: Belgium, Ceylon, Italy, Japan and Mexico. The meeting was called by Unesco and the Preparatory Committee of the International Computation Centre established by the Italian Government under the chairmanship of Professor F. Severi. Eleven experts participated in this

1. See *Unesco Chronicle*, vol. II, no. 6, page 189.

meeting as well as some twenty observers from international institutions and manufacturers of computing machines.

The experts recommended the establishment of a provisional centre which should undertake to carry out, as far as possible, the tasks of the International Computation Centre once it has been finally established. This temporary organization should have the staff and equipment required to: assume responsibility for the scientific and technical training of specialists and research workers in computation; perform, or pass on to competent national or international centres and institutions, tasks requested by States which have ratified the Convention; draw up a list of national, international and private computation centres and collect full documentation concerning them; arrange or help to arrange symposia on subjects within its field of activity.

The Director-General of Unesco has transmitted these recommendations to governments of Member States so that they may express their opinions on this subject.

Creation of an International Committee on Laboratory Animals

World demand for laboratory animals has increased enormously, especially for animals of uniformly high quality and specialized strains. Unless proper steps are taken, vital progress in medicine and experimental biology will be delayed or hindered.

This is why Unesco took the initiative of calling a meeting in Paris on 3 and 4 December of directors of national institutions for the selection of laboratory animals in order to lay foundations for international co-operation in this field.

These experts unanimously agreed on the need to create a specialized international committee. The aim of this committee is to investigate and determine the action required to prevent a dangerous shortage of laboratory animals. In order to improve the supply and quality of laboratory animals, an international survey is being made of (a) sources of supply, numbers and kinds of laboratory animals procured and (b) the main users, the numbers and kinds of animals used and the purposes for which they are being used.

The world list of strains of laboratory animals is being compiled and a documentation centre will be established. The common terms used in relation to laboratory animals are being defined precisely and quantitatively with regard to genetics, disease and parasitism, nutrition, care and performance records. These defined terms will be standardized on an international basis.

The requirements for international or local production centres for breeding and supplying inbred and other needed strains of laboratory animals (such as cancer-susceptible mice) will be determined. A survey is being made of establishments and facilities already existing that could undertake these functions if required. The committee will prepare a report on customs, quarantine and other regulations concerning the international shipment of laboratory animals, and it will propose recommendations for proper conditions of transportation.

The committee will also determine the need for establishing an information exchange; an educational programme for animal technicians and

caretakers; internationally recognized standards for laboratory animals, and systems for certifying animals and accrediting suppliers. Later, it will examine the possibility of encouraging symposia.

It is believed that the committee will serve as a useful link between laboratory animal organizations in various countries, so that advances in one country can become rapidly and widely known in others. The information collected by the committee will be made available through suitable publications.

Science Teaching in South-East Asia

In co-operation with the Government of Thailand, Unesco organized a regional study conference on science teaching which met in Bangkok from 4 to 20 October. Behind this conference lay the fact that a steady improvement of science teaching is indispensable to human progress in a world where scientific progress is continually changing conditions of daily life. Any improvement programme worthy of the name must cover all requirements ranging from science teaching itself and the training of science teachers for primary and secondary schools to the improvement of living conditions through better use of science in daily life.

Attending the conference were some 40 experts from 15 countries: Australia, Burma, Cambodia, Ceylon, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaya, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet-Nam. Upon Unesco's request, these experts had drawn up reports on the situation in their respective countries. These reports provided an ample source of information to which Unesco added its three handbooks on science teaching in tropical countries which had already been published and a new work on science teaching which was used for reference purposes by the conference. A complete set of 150 scientific instruments, built according to designs in the two-volume work published by Unesco, *The Construction of Laboratory Apparatus for Schools*, was sent to Bangkok for the conference by the South-East Asia Science Co-operation Office in New Delhi.

The conference, with Lieutenant-General Phya Salvidhanides, president of the Thailand Academy of Science, serving as chairman was divided into three working groups: science teaching in primary and secondary schools—curriculum, methods, materials, textbooks, examinations and evaluation of results; science teaching in teacher training institutions—curriculum, methods, materials, textbooks, examinations and evaluation of results; science popularization—science clubs, audio-visual aids and group teaching.

Before ending their conference, the specialists adopted some 100 recommendations to governmental authorities.

Science Co-operation Offices

In the last weeks of 1956, Unesco's science co-operation offices organized several international meetings of specialists. The Montevideo office, which serves Latin America, organized a seminar on science teaching in Central America which brought 20 experts to Tegucigalpa, Honduras, to discuss the training of science teachers for secondary schools. The Montevideo office also organized a symposium on pharmaceutical botany in Havana which was attended by 20 scientists from 13 Western Hemisphere countries.

The Djakarta office serving South-East Asia organized a refresher course in Singapore for secondary school mathematics teachers which was attended by 30 teachers from 7 countries. Finally, the South Asia office in New Delhi brought together some 20 Burmese, Indian and Pakistani physicists for a course on semi-conductors and micro-waves.

Exchange of Publications in Latin America

A meeting of experts on the national and international exchange of publications in Latin America was held last October in Havana under Unesco auspices at the invitation of the Government of Cuba. Twenty-one experts from 14 Member States participated.

They recommended that all Latin American countries should designate or establish their own national exchange centres as soon as possible and that these centres should be either part of national libraries or under the control of these libraries. They suggested that Unesco and the Organization of American States should join efforts to set up a pilot centre for the exchange of publications. This centre will probably be established in Brazil.

The meeting also asked Unesco and the governments of the Western Hemisphere to recommend to the Universal Postal Union and to the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain that postal franchise should be granted for publications exchanged by national and international centres. Finally, the meeting recommended that Unesco should propose to its Member States the preparation of a new universal convention on the exchange of publications in order to bring up to date the existing Brussels Convention of 1886. A similar recommendation was adopted in February 1956, by another group of experts which met in Paris under Unesco's auspices.

Staff Appointments

The following appointments have been made recently:

Office of the Director-General. Mr. Samuel Pisar (Australia) to the Bureau of Legal Affairs.

Department of Education. Mr. Sioma Tanguian (U.S.S.R.) as programme specialist in the Education Clearing House.

Department of Social Sciences. Mr. Kurt Forcart (Switzerland) as programme specialist in the Division of Applied Social Sciences.

Department of Cultural Activities. Mr. Sandor Maller (Hungary) as programme specialist in the Libraries Division.

Department of Mass Communication. Mrs. Alina Roux (U.S.A.) to the Visual Media Division; Mr. Valery Birioucov (U.S.S.R.) to the Public Liaison Division.

The Participation Programme and Technical Assistance

Experts sent on Mission

Now known as 'participation in the activities of Member States', aid rendered directly by Unesco to governments upon their request differs from United Nations technical assistance in that it is not solely reserved for industrially under-developed countries and it is not necessarily linked to economic development. Under this programme, six experts were sent on mission in January. Here are listed the names of the experts, the objects of their missions and the countries to which they have been assigned:

India. Mr. H. Harap (U.S.A.), curriculum development, who will work with the Indian Central Bureau of Textbook Development in Delhi. Mr. P. K. Garde (India), librarian and documentalist at the Research Centre on the Social Implications of Industrialization in Southern Asia, at Calcutta.

Lebanon. Mr. J. P. Le Henaff (France), practical pedagogy, who will participate in the introduction of new teaching methods.

Malta. Mrs. M. Jarry (France), restoration of ancient tapestries at Valetta.

Thailand. Dr. J. V. Karandikar (India), microfilm specialist with the National Library in Bangkok where he is working mainly on the microfilming of national archives.

Caribbean Commission. Mr. D. C. Tits (Belgium), education advisor to Caribbean Commission with headquarters in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad.

Under its share of the United Nations expanded programme of technical assistance, Unesco sent eight experts on mission in January and changed the assignment of five others. In all, new missions were sent to the following 10 countries:

Argentina. Dr. S. Devons (United Kingdom), nuclear physics.

Burma. Mr. P. C. Bieunais (France), Applied Research Institute in Burma, as expert in laboratory glass-blowing.

China. Mr. J. K. Thompson (United States), science teaching.

Iran. Mr. P. Larraburu (France), University of Teheran project on precision optical instruments.

Israel. Mr. G. Broersma (Netherlands), visiting professor of engineering science.

Laos. An educational survey mission including Mr. F. Porta (Italy), Mr. K. E. Priestley (United Kingdom) and Mr. G. Sardin (France).

Liberia. Mr. A. W. F. Wilkinson (United Kingdom), audio-visual aids, and Mr. S. Thornton (United Kingdom), university science teaching (physics).

Libya. Mr. A. Mouradi (Syria), lecturer in physical education at the educational training and production centre at Tripoli.

Morocco. Mr. W. Begert (Switzerland), fundamental education. Mr. Begert is the first Unesco expert to be sent to Morocco on a technical assistance mission.

Mexico. Mr. A. Loehnberg (Israel), expert in hydrology, at the Applied Science Research Institute, Mexico City.

As of 31 January, 255 Unesco experts were in the field—46 under the programme of participation in the activities of Member States, and 209 under the technical assistance programme.

Fellowships

Unesco awarded eight fellowships under the participation programme in January to nationals of Egypt, Ecuador, Greece, Iran, Libya, Peru and Turkey. Countries of study include Belgium, the German Federal Republic, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United States.

Under the technical assistance programme, eight additional fellowships were awarded during the same period. They went to nationals of Afghanistan, Brazil, Ecuador (2), Indonesia, Iraq, and Yemen (2). Countries of study include Argentina, Chile, Egypt, France, India, Mexico, Sudan, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

Co-operation with International Non-governmental Organizations

World Confederation of Organizations of the Teaching Professions

Representatives of the Executive Committee of the World Confederation of the Teaching Professions met in Paris from 28 to 30 January, to study Unesco's programme with various members of the Secretariat. They included Mr. Ronald Gould, president of the WCOTP, Mr. E. Hombourger, vice-president; Dr. William G. Carr, secretary-general; Mr. S. Natarajan and Mr. T. Richner.

The meeting clarified certain questions of common interest and also took up future collaboration between the two organizations. Representatives of the Confederation undertook to stimulate the interest of teaching organizations in Unesco's work and to call attention to its publications and services.

International Social Sciences Council

The third general assembly of the International Social Sciences Council was held at Unesco House from 8 to 10 January with Dr. D. Yung of the

United States acting as chairman. Fifteen members of the council from 10 countries were present at this meeting. Also represented, in addition to Unesco, were the International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies, the International Council of Scientific Unions, the International Economics Association and the International Sociological Association.

The assembly examined two working papers prepared by the Unesco Department of Social Science, one on the relations of the council with national and international non-governmental organizations in the social sciences, and the other on the problem of the implications of technical progress and industrialization. The latter report was discussed at the same time as a report by Professor Ballandier, director of the International Research Bureau on the social implications of technical progress. The council used a report presented by Professor René Clemens of Belgium to discuss the theoretical problems raised by the study of social and cultural factors affecting productivity.

After taking up a number of administrative and financial questions, the Assembly created a committee to draw up proposed statutes for the possible transformation of the council into a federation of international social sciences organizations. Finally, the assembly elected a new executive committee consisting of Dr. D. Yung (United States), chairman, and Mr. A. Bertrand (France), Mr. Sjoerd Groenman (Netherlands), Mr. Gunnar Heckscher (Sweden), Mr. George Kuriyan (India) and Mr. Francesco Vito (Italy).

International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies

The International Commission for the History of Social Movements met at Unesco House on 5 and 6 November with Mr. Georges Bourgin of France serving as chairman. In particular it took up the publication of a reference work, now in the press, on the sources of the history of social movements.

The Commission is part of the International Congress of the Historical Sciences which is a member of the International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies.

International Council of Museums

The International Council of Museums held its first conference in the Middle East at Damascus from 23 to 27 October. Present were Mr. George Salles, president of ICOM, Mr. Georges Henri Rivière, director of ICOM, and Mr. J. K. Van der Haagen, head of Unesco's Museums and Monuments Division. Among the participants were Mr. Hadjidakis, director of the Benaki Museum in Athens, Mr. F. Basmachi, director of the Museums of Iraq, Emir M. Chehab, Conservateur-général des Antiquités, of Lebanon, Mr. S. Hak, director-general of antiquities of Syria, and Mr. H. Kosay, director of the Ethnographic Museum of Ankara, Turkey.

Some of the problems facing museums in this region which were discussed at Damascus were: general organization and administration; the training of curators; the importance of developing an association of museum curators; the preparation of exhibits with the help of loans from museums in other regions; the creation of ethnographical museums to help save local

or regional traditions now disappearing; the installation of laboratories for the conservation and protection of material; and the educational role of museums. The specialists at the conference discussed the National Museum and the Museum of Folklore and Folk Art in Damascus, the Site Museum at Palmyra, the Museum and Citadel of Aleppo, the sites of Ras Shamra (Ugarit) where a museum is now being installed in the ruins of a palace, and a museum in the Cathedral of Tartous.

International Theatre Institute

The International Theatre Institute held a world conference in Bombay from 30 October to 2 November on the theme of 'Popular Theatre and Youth Theatre'. Under the chairmanship of Mrs. Kamaladevi Chattopadhay of India, this meeting saw experts come from 23 countries: Australia, Brazil, China, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Japan, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Syria, Thailand, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and Yugoslavia.

Members of the conference worked in two committees: one, directed by Mr. Jean Darcante of France, discussed problems of the popular theatre, while the other, under Professor John Mitchell of the United States, took up the relationship of the theatre and youth. In its plenary sessions, the conference studied reports from the national centres of the ITI and the status of the popular theatre and of theatres for youth in the regions and countries covered by the Institute. In particular, it stressed possible steps to improve the international exchange of information as well as the exchange of theatrical troupes. Mr. Prem Kirpal, acting director of the Department of Cultural Activities, represented Unesco at this meeting.

International Music Council

The International Music Council held its sixth general assembly from 2 to 6 October at Unesco House, following a meeting of its executive committee. Participating in the latter meeting were Sir Steuart Wilson (United Kingdom), president, Mr. Marcel Cuvelier (Belgium), secretary-general, and Mr. Henry Barraud (France), Mr. Johan Bentzen (Denmark), Mr. Klaus Egge (Norway) and Mr. Domingo Santa Cruz (Chile).

Sir Steuart Wilson also served as chairman of the general assembly which was attended by representatives of the International Society for Contemporary Music, the International Musicological Society, the International Federation of Musical Youth, the International Folk Music Council, the International Confederation of Popular Societies for Music, the International Committee for the Standardization of Instrumental Music, the International Association of Music Libraries and the International Federation of Musicians. Delegates of 17 national committees also participated in this assembly in addition to observers from several other international organizations. In all, some 60 persons took part in this society which saw a new international organization, the International Society for Music Education, admitted to the Council.

The general assembly heard reports on finances and activities presented by the Executive Committee and discussed and approved its programme and budget for 1957 and 1958. Three members of the Executive Committee

were elected to replace retiring members, they are Mr. Marcel Cuvelier (Belgium), Mr. Samuel Baud-Bovy (Switzerland) and Mr. Nicholas Nabokoff (United States). The assembly also elected the council's president and vice-president to serve in 1957 and 1958 and a secretary-general to serve from 1957 to 1962. They were Mr. Domingo Santa Cruz, Mr. Henry Barraud and Mr. Marcel Cuvelier. The executive committee recognized four new national committees for France, Ireland, Luxembourg and Poland.

Following the general assembly, two working parties also met at Unesco House: a committee of representatives of broadcasting services, convened by the International Folk Music Council, to study the role of authentic folk music in radio broadcasting; and a committee of representatives of the record industry and the International Music Council who met with Unesco specialists to study the problem of the free movement of recordings among countries.

International Anthology of Contemporary Music on Records

The rapid development of sound communications over the past 50 years has brought the works of living composers to a far wider public than ever before. It is, however, often difficult for music lovers to follow musical trends abroad, and to hear the works of new composers from other countries.

To help remedy this situation, the International Music Council is sponsoring an International Anthology of Contemporary Music on Records, to be issued at intervals over the next three years, which will include works from 30 countries. (The series will not include works of better-known contemporary composers such as Bartok, Hindemith, Schoenberg or Stravinsky.) Compositions are being selected by the Council's National Committees in various countries, and a final choice will be made by a group of musicians of international repute, nominated by the Council. Whenever possible, the music will be recorded in the country of origin and under the composer's supervision.

The first disc, issued this February, is devoted to the works of composers from France and Italy: Symphony No. 1 by Henri Dutilleux, and 'Coro di Morti', by Goffredo Petrassi.

Committee Set up by the Fifth Conference of International Non-governmental Organizations

The committee set up by the Fifth Conference of International Non-governmental Organizations met in Paris on 4 February with Dr. G. Riegner of the World Jewish Congress as chairman. After hearing a report on the Unesco General Conference in New Delhi, the committee took up the procedure to be followed for consulting organizations on the Unesco draft programme for 1959 and 1960.

Two working parties of representatives of non-governmental organizations also met on 4 and 5 February. One was the working group on the social evolution of regions affected by technological transformation and rapid industrialization and the other a sub-group on the psychological and sociological bases of international understanding.

PUBLICATIONS

'Books for All'

The ability to read and write is meaningless to the man who has nothing to read and no reasons for writing. Experience has shown that adults who have been taught to read and write often drift back into illiteracy unless progress in education is accompanied by progress in other fields, especially in reading materials. Books are in the first rank of these materials. Every year, the world's printing presses turn out 5,000 million books. But, while this figure may appear astronomical, it represents only two books per capita for the world's population and half of this production is absorbed by school textbooks. In addition, the world's book production is highly concentrated: for example, three-quarters of it is in the hands of only 10 countries.

Problems of Production and Distribution

A broad panorama of world book production is presented in a study made by Mr. R. E. Barker, Deputy Secretary of the Publishers Association of Great Britain, and published recently by Unesco under the title *Books for All.*[1] Mr. Barker's study examines the means at our disposal to give every man free access to our heritage of the printed word. Thanks to modern techniques of publication and communication, books can be made available quickly to everyone—but these techniques are not being used fully. In vast regions, a lack of adequate printing facilities, coupled with bottlenecks at national frontiers, prevents full production and adequate distribution of books. These difficulties range from customs and foreign exchange restrictions to insufficient copyright protection, inadequate translation services and the prohibitive cost of transport.

Mr. Barker's study gives a cross-section of the structure of publishing in various countries. On the basis of number of titles published here is a breakdown of world book production by language: English, 21.8 per cent; Russian, 16.9 per cent; German, 15.4 per cent; Japanese, 11.7 per cent; French, 9.8 per cent; Spanish, 7.5 per cent; Italian, 6.7 per cent; Portuguese, 5.4 per cent; Chinese, 4.8 per cent, etc. The U.S.S.R. heads the list of the world's publishing nations with 650,000,000 copies and 37,500 titles per year, followed by the United Kingdom (286,000,000 copies and 18,700

1. R. E. Barker, *Books for All.* Paris, Unesco, 1956. 115 pages, with maps and graphs. Price: $3.00; 15/-; 750 fr. (Also published in French.)

titles), the United States (164,000,000 copies and 11,840 titles), Germany (108,000,000 copies and 13,913 titles) and France (100,000,000 copies and 10,410 titles). Though only tenth on the basis of number of books published, the Netherlands ranks first in the number of books produced per capita, with Switzerland close on its heels despite the fact that it is twenty-third on the basis of titles produced. In contrast, major producers such as the United States, India and the U.S.S.R. fall behind in this per capita classification.

World book production is concentrated in a small number of countries—75 per cent of all books are published in Europe, North America and certain Asian States—though these regions account for only half of the world's population. This concentration is underlined by the fact that 70 per cent of the world's translations are produced in only four languages—English, Russian, French and German—and that the world's book-exporting countries can be counted on one's fingers. The two leaders in this respect are the United Kingdom and the United States, each with a book export trade totalling at least $46,000,000, followed by France with $24,000,000. Next in order are the Netherlands, the German Federal Republic, Spain and Switzerland.

The Role of Translations

The countries producing few books by their own authors are the ones which usually neglect to fill this gap by publishing translations, Mr. Barker has noted. This remark is borne out by a glance at the eighth edition of the *Index Translationum*,[1] also recently published by Unesco, and covering more than 24,000 translations published in 55 countries during 1955. Since its first appearance in 1949, this international bibliography has served as an important aid not only to translators, publishers and editors, but also to anyone following the progress of cultural exchanges. Its listings supply a great deal of information on the movements of ideas throughout the world and on changes in reading habits. For example, the *Index Translationum* shows that, of all classical authors, Tolstoy was the most translated in 1955, 23 times in all. He was followed by Shakespeare, Hans Christian Andersen, Maxim Gorki, Chekhov, Balzac and Jack London. Jules Verne was the most-translated author in Czechoslovakia, Italy, Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union, but translations of the Bible held first place in the German Federal Republic, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The highest total of translations of any one writer's works was reached by Lenin's pamphlets, treatises and speeches with 384 translations—328 of them in various languages of the Soviet Union and 56 outside the U.S.S.R.

The large number of languages spoken in the Soviet Union partially explains why it is the world's leading translator. With 4,282 titles in 1955, it was far ahead of the German Federal Republic (2,056), Czechoslovakia (1,478), France (1,424), Japan (1,203), Italy (1,118) and the Netherlands (1,104). Japan leads in the number of philosophical works translated, the United States in religious works and Poland in scientific books translated.

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1. *Index Translationum*. Paris, Unesco, 1957. 663 pages. A bilingual publication (French and English). Price: $14.00; 70/-; 3,500 fr.

Detective stories continue to be highly appreciated throughout the world and Agatha Christie the most translated detective story writer.

The Development of Public Libraries

The chronic shortage of books in certain regions of the world makes the development of modern public libraries all the more urgent. Libraries, too, are concentrated in a limited number of countries; in the rest of the world, they are few and far between. In 1948, Unesco published a short outline of the principles which should be used to guide the activities and even the organization of a library, under the title, *The Public Library, a Living Force for Popular Education*. As the title states, these principles imply that the activities of a public library should be closely related to general education. They also imply that a library should not be rigidly organized and that it should always adapt itself to local conditions—social, cultural, economic and other factors. Although all public libraries have the same basic purpose, their methods are extremely varied in actual practice. This is why Unesco has concentrated on practical demonstrations of possible solutions to problems faced by libraries in different regions, or on seminars and conferences to seek ways of meeting regional or local needs.

So far, Unesco has organized five meetings in this field. The first two were devoted to general problems of public libraries (Manchester and London, 1948) and to the role of public libraries in adult education (Malmo, Sweden, 1950). The three others were regional meetings and studied the development of public libraries in Latin America (São Paulo, 1951), Africa (Ibadan, 1953), and Asia (Delhi, 1955). In co-operation with the governments of India and Colombia, Unesco has also helped create two model libraries, one at Delhi and the other in Medellin.

In its series of *Public Library Manuals*, Unesco has recently published two pamphlets, one on the Delhi Seminar and the other on the Delhi Public Library. [1]

The seminar, which brought together 86 librarians and educators from a dozen countries, was both an act of faith and a challenge. The director, Mr. Frank M. Gardner, comments about it in these terms:

'It is usually admitted that there are three pre-requisites for a successful public library service. They are: a literate population, an established system of local government, and a reasonable output of books in the language of the country.

'Over a great part of Asia, none of these yet exists, and if the establishment of public libraries is to wait until they do, then they may wait for many decades, in spite of the rapid progress that is being made in many countries. The idea that public libraries can not only develop but thrive in such conditions, and that they can even assist the growth of literacy, promote the publication of more printed materials, and even, to some extent, be a useful instrument in the practice of local government, is new and challenging.

1. *Public Libraries for Asia* (1956) and *The Delhi Public Library* (1957). Unesco, Paris, 187 and 104 pages. Price of each publication, $1.50; 7/6; 400 fr. (Also available in French).

'The faith in holding this seminar was justified, and the challenge was met.'

And Mr. Gardner continues: 'I believe that the recommendations that have emerged from the discussions are practical, economically possible, and applicable wholly to many countries and partially to all. . . . One does not expect rapid results, but many of the proposals are immediately practicable. Experiment in selected areas, basic legislation and public finance, facilities for training of librarians, both in Asia and outside it, national production and research centres for suitable elementary reading material, better library service for children in school and in existing libraries—these are a few of the proposals on which a start can be made.'

The Delhi seminar was held in October 1955, at a time when the model library organized by Unesco with the co-operation of Indian authorities had been functioning for four years. It was believed that the time was ripe to take stock of the results already obtained, to study problems which had arisen and to make available to other librarians the ways in which these problems had been solved or, at least, attacked.

In his evaluation of the Delhi Public Library, Mr. Gardner set out first to determine to what extent the library had fulfilled social and cultural needs and what role it had taken in community life. Secondly, he wanted to obtain precise data on the degree of education and the walks of life of its users so that he could judge whether or not they were a representative cross-section of their community. Thirdly, there was a need to evaluate the degree to which the library was being used and the way in which it was being used. Information was required concerning the attitude of readers toward the library and whether or not it met their needs—both for education and entertainment. Finally, it was hoped that this study would shed some light on general problems of organizing and administering a public library in Asia. In the report which Unesco asked him to write, Mr. Gardner set out to answer these questions.

The two 'manuals' complement each other. They are of immediate value to anyone setting up public reading services in Asia or elsewhere, and are of more than passing interest to specialists in the field of popular education and techniques of evaluation.

Spotlight on the World of Books

No matter what form it takes—loans, inter-governmental agreements, purchases by libraries, or even ordinary commercial transactions—the international exchange of books requires good bibliographies. Without them the rational distribution of books would be impossible. To borrow a phrase from Mr. Barker, 'Bibliographies provide the charts without which those who seek books would be lost in a mountainous sea'.

To supply such guidance, Unesco recently published, in its *Bibliographical Handbooks* series, a *Directory of Reference Works Published in Asia.*[1] This directory is being issued at a time when there is an increasing desire throughout the world to know about the countries of the East and when such knowledge is of particular importance. The contribution of the

1. *Directory of Reference Works Published in Asia (Bibliographical Handbook series).* Paris, Unesco, 139 pages (bilingual: English and French). Price $2.00; 10/6; 500 fr.

directory, though limited, is by no means negligible. This is, in fact, the first time that an attempt has been made to assemble in one volume the titles of general or special encyclopedias, linguistic or technical dictionaries, collections of biographies, travel guides, atlases and geographical dictionaries, chronologies and other compendiums of historical facts and reference works relating to economic, social, artistic, literary, scientific and technical questions—to say nothing of bibliographies of all kinds—published in more than 15 Asian countries. The directory is the work of Mr. P. K. Garde, librarian of the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, in Bangkok.

This summary of recent Unesco publications concerning books and bibliographies would be incomplete without a mention of the February 1957 issue of *The Unesco Courier*, the monthly illustrated magazine of Unesco.[1] Under the title 'Spotlight on the World of Books', *The Unesco Courier* offers articles on the role of foreign literature in our lives, on translations, on the restoration and conservation techniques of Rome's Book Hospital, the Institute of Book Pathology, and on the history of book publication from the pre-Gutenberg era down to the pocket book.

These publications lead to one very distinct conclusion: although new methods of communication have taken on increasing importance in daily life, the role of the book is still a major one and the world of publishing has never been more productive than it is today.

1. One-year subscription rates: $2.50; 8/-; 400 fr. Price per issue: $0.20; 9d; 40 fr. (Published in English, French and Spanish. A Russian edition is now also available: one-year subscription 30 roubles; price per issue, 2 roubles and 50 kopeks.)

PROVISIONAL TIME-TABLE OF CONFERENCES, MEETINGS AND SEMINARS

March, April, May, June, July and August 1957

Meetings of international non-governmental organizations subsidized by Unesco, which take place at Unesco House, are marked by an asterisk.

Date		*Place*
MARCH		
4-9	Symposium on Submicroscopic Organization and Function of the Nerve Cells (in collaboration with the Latin American Science Co-operation Office).	CARACAS
4-13	Committee of Experts on the Protection of Performers, Recorders and Broadcasters.	MONTE CARLO
7-8*	Committee on Biological Abstracting of the ICSU Abstracting Board (convened by ICSU).	UNESCO
11-12*	International Theatre Institute: Editorial Committee (ITI).	UNESCO
11-15	*Ad Hoc* Committee of the Executive Board.	UNESCO
14-16	Working Group on Productivity in Marine Biology convened by the Latin America Science Co-operation Office.	MONTEVIDEO
15	Unesco/IBE Joint Committee Meeting.	UNESCO
15-16*	Council for International Organization of Medical Sciences (CIOMS): Executive Committee No 22.	UNESCO
18-28	Executive Board: forty-seventh session.	UNESCO
20-22	Tenth Conference of Organizers of International Voluntary Work Camps.	AUBERGE DE LA JEUNESSE DU VENUSBERG (near Bonn, Germany)
21-22	Meeting of experts on Type Culture Collections convened by the Latin America Science Co-operation Office.	MONTEVIDEO
21-23*	Ninth Meeting of the Administrative Board of the International Association of Universities (IAU).	UNESCO
24-30	Meeting of experts to study the influence of examinations on education.	HAMBURG
APRIL		
1-3	Steering Committee of the Unesco Research Centre on the Social Implications of Industrialization in Southern Asia.	CALCUTTA
1-10	Meeting of the International Advisory Committee for the Major Project 4.A (Mutual Appreciation of Eastern and Western Cultural Values).	UNESCO
3-5	Twelfth Session of Advisory Committee on Arid Zone Research.	UNESCO
8-18	International regional Conference for the examination and preparation of plans for the university teaching and research in social sciences in Latin America (convened by the Brazilian Government with the financial help of Unesco).	RIO DE JANEIRO

Date		*Place*
APRIL		
8-27	Training Course on Cristallography (convened by the Latin America Science Co-operation Office).	RIO DE JANEIRO
10-12	Fourth Session of the International Advisory Committee on Research in the Natural Sciences Programme of Unesco.	STOCKHOLM
11-12	Headquarters Committee: twenty-third session.	UNESCO
15-17*	Meeting of the Association of Internationally-minded Schools (CIS)—Teaching about the United Nations.	UNESCO
18-20	Meeting of Specialists on Humid Tropics Research in Latin America (convened by Latin America Science Co-operation Office).	RIO DE JANEIRO
18-3 May	Training Course in Modern Physics (convened by South-East Asia Science Co-operation Office).	BANDUNG
22-23	Meeting of the enlarged Preparatory Committee of the International Computation Centre (convened by the International Computation Centre).	UNESCO
29-3 May	International Committee on Monuments, Artistic and Historical Sites and Archaeological Excavations.	UNESCO
MAY		
6-8	Working Parties of Non-governmental Organizations.	UNESCO
6-8* (tentative)	International Music Council (CIM): Executive Committee.	UNESCO
15*	Co-ordination Committee for International Voluntary Work Camps.	UNESCO
20-22	Group of consultants for the preparation of the International Conference on Radio-Isotopes in Scientific Research.	UNESCO
20-25* (tentative)	International Music Council: Meeting of representatives of Radio Organisms.	UNESCO
27-15 June	Executive Board: forty-eighth session.	UNESCO
JUNE		
Not fixed	Training Course in the field of Nuclear Reactors (with the participation of South Asia Science Co-operation Office).	BOMBAY
19*	Co-ordination Committee for International Voluntary Work Camps.	UNESCO
JULY		
8	Unesco/IBE Joint Committee meeting.	GENEVA
8-17	Twentieth International Conference on Public Education (convened jointly by Unesco/IBE).	GENEVA
9-11	Non-governmental Organizations consultation on Unesco's Programme for 1959-60.	UNESCO
12	Third meeting of the Committee set up by the fifth Conference of Non-governmental Organizations.	UNESCO
15-17	Group of consultants for the preparation of an international conference on radio-isotopes in scientific research.	UNESCO

Date		*Place*
AUGUST		
Not fixed	First session of Advisory Committee for Humid Tropics Research (convened jointly by the Government of Brazil and Unesco).	BELEM (Brazil)
Not fixed	Meeting of experts to study the establishment of an international commission on cell biology.	ST. ANDREWS (Scotland)
Not fixed	Round Table on Economic Development in Latin America (convened by the International Economic Association in collaboration with Unesco).	RIO DE JANEIRO

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